

Washington, DC -- On Sunday, May 6th, U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri presented Alexis Blatcher of Norwich High School with the first place prize in this year's Artistic Discovery Congressional art competition in a ceremony at the Stanley Theater in Utica.

"It is an honor to participate in a program that fosters creativity, innovation, and imagination – helping students succeed in school and in the workplace," said Arcuri. "This competition provides high school student from the 24th district with a one-of-a-kind opportunity to share their creative talent with the rest of the country as well as develop their own artistic future."

Arcuri presented the following awards to the first, second and third place winners:

- 1st place : Alexis Blatcher, Norwich H.S., charcoal, "Bones"

Blatcher received a \$400 scholarship to Pratt at Munson-William-Proctor (MWP), and a \$150 savings bond from the Congressman. Blatcher's picture will be sent to Washington to be displayed in the U.S. Capitol. Blatcher will also be invited to a reception in Washington on June 28th along with winners from each other congressional district.

- 2nd place: Audra Ziobro, Homer H.S., colored pencil, "Through the Looking Glass"

Ziobro received a \$300 scholarship to Pratt at MWP, and a \$100 savings bond from the Congressman. Ziobro's piece will be on display in Arcuri's Washington office.

- 3rd place: Christopher Gizzi, Homer, photography, "Thrice"

Gizzi received a \$200 scholarship to Pratt at MWP, and a \$50 savings bond from the Congressman. Gizzi's artwork will be on display in Arcuri's Utica office.

All participants who were not a place winner received \$100 scholarships to Pratt at MWP – if they choose to attend - and a U.S. House of Representatives pin from Arcuri.

This winter and spring, local art competitions were held in each county and county winners were placed on display at the Stanley.

The Artistic Discovery art competition is part of a nationwide art competition for high school students, sponsored each year by the Congressional Art Caucus, of which Arcuri is a member, and coordinated by Members of the U.S. House of Representatives in their districts. Beginning with the first competition in 1982, it has become the tradition for recognizing and celebrating the artistic talents of America's youth.

The main objective of the competition is the encouragement of artistic creativity in young American artists.

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